

## Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

October 4, 2012

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE – As the winter season approaches the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) reminds individuals conducting earth-disturbing construction activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin (and, in some cases, in the Truckee River watershed) that they must cease land disturbing activities and “winterize” projects by **October 15, 2012**. “Winterize” means the stabilization of disturbed areas by appropriate erosion and/or sediment control measures to prevent soil movement permanently or temporarily in a manner that will remain effective until May 1, 2013.

The Water Board and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency may grant variances to the grading prohibition on a case by case basis in situations where grading is necessary for reasons of public safety, water quality protection, erosion control, or if it can be shown that granting such a variance would not cause or contribute to the degradation of water quality.

For persons conducting activities under a Water Board permit or directive and seeking a variance to the October 16, 2012 through April 30, 2013 soil disturbance prohibition, contact Water Board staff to ensure that all necessary information is provided to Water Board staff in adequate time for consideration of a variance before the October 16, 2012 prohibition date. A variance request form is available at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water\\_issues/programs/storm\\_water/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/storm_water/index.shtml) (and clicking on link “Variance Requests for Land Disturbance Prohibition Period”) or by contacting Water Board staff at (530) 542-5400. Use of the form will expedite processing.

Thank you for working with us to protect water quality.

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